

RAPID READER - APPLE VERSION
from Silicon Valley Systems, Inc.

INSTRUCTIONS:

LOADING AND EXECUTION:

The program is self-loading. Just insert the disk in the disk drive and turn on the computer.

USING THE PROGRAM:

The program is menu driven and prompts the user as to the choices available. The user is given the option of choosing among five eye training exercises and a Speed Test. Once the reading exercise is chosen the user selects the speed in words per minute (w.p.m) at which to practice. At any time during practice the user can increase the w.p.m. by pressing the -start- key, or choose another option by pressing the -option- key. The ability to gradually change the speed allows the user to find the speed at which he feels most comfortable and begin to increase it gradually. The eye training options are described below.

(1) WORDS: The user can choose to practice with single words. The words will be flashed on the screen at the rate chosen. The position of the words will move down the screen to train the user to move his eyes down the page in a regular and controlled manner.

(2) WORD PAIRS: With this option, pairs of words are flashed on the screen. The words are widely separated in order to train the user to expand his peripheral vision. This helps the user to take in groups of words in one glance rather than having to move his eyes from one word to the next.

(3) PHRASES: This is similar to the above option except phrases which are several words long, are flashed on the screen. The user should try to take in the entire phrase in one glance.

(4) SHORT SENTENCES: With this option entire sentences are flashed on the screen.

(5) FULL SENTENCES: This is the same as option 4 except that longer, more complex sentences are displayed. With this option sentences can be flashed on the screen at rates over 2000 w.p.m.

(6) SPEED TEST: This option provides an entertaining way to test your reading speed and comprehension. After selecting the speed and difficulty, the user is given ten chances to correctly type in the missing word from a sentence flashed on the screen at the selected speed.

(7) CHANGE WORDS: This options allows the user to select between English or Spanish sentences or to modify the word banks used to create sentences. The process of making this selection or modifying the word bank is explained by the program.

(8) CHANGE DISPLAY: The user may also select this option in order to change the color and intensity of both the background and the letters. This process is also fully explained within the program itself. Use this option to find the color combination most comfortable for your eyes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE:

Practice with options one and two until you feel comfortable with your ability to comprehend the words without actually saying them to yourself. You will quickly find that you do not need this verbalization crutch to understand the words. The same will happen for the phrases and sentences. The trick is to read groups of words, rather than single words. By using the -start- key to decrease w.p.m. and the -select- key to increase w.p.m. you can gradually build up your speed. Notice that when you press the option key, you are told the current w.p.m. as well as given the choice of changing the option. Pressing the -select- key will increase the w.p.m. in increments of approximately 20 w.p.m. up to the maximum for the current option.

Remember that the idea is to try to absorb the words as they flash without backtracking or fixing your eyes on individual words. You must practice moving your eyes down the screen and the page in a regular pattern taking in groups of words with each glance. At first you may not comprehend much of what you see, but with practice your mind should begin to read words in groups rather than individually. Perhaps the most important suggestion is that you must try to transfer this habit to your everyday reading. The computer and this program can be very useful as a tool, but the most important factor is your own determination.